NEXT SLIDE

Easy Real-Time Online Collaboration Using TogetherJS

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Why Real-Time Collaboration?

- Creates a more intimate sense of a class community.
  - Brings students and instuctors together in a more immediate way than discussion groups or email.
- Creates a more personal connection between instructors and students.
  - Students want (need) to feel that instructors care about them.
  - Real-time responses enhance that feeling.
- Flexibility
- Real-time issue resolution.
  - The most important reason for real-time collaboration.

Real-Time Collaboration Options Overview

There are four basic technologies that are used for real-time collaboration.

- Text chatting
- Audio communication
- Video
- Desktop/application sharing

There are dozens of software applications that may be used for real-time collaboration.

- Internet Relay Chat and instant messaging applications
- VoIP applications (Skype, etc.)
- Web conferencing systems (WebEx, etc.)
- Google
- Learning management systems

Instructors need to make wise choices when deciding how to implement real-time collaboration in an online course.

- Ease of use is paramount.
- Reliability
- Cost
- Bandwidth requirements
- Operating system compatibility
  - Browser-based with no plugins or Java is best.
- Freedom
- Less is better (features)

TogetherJS

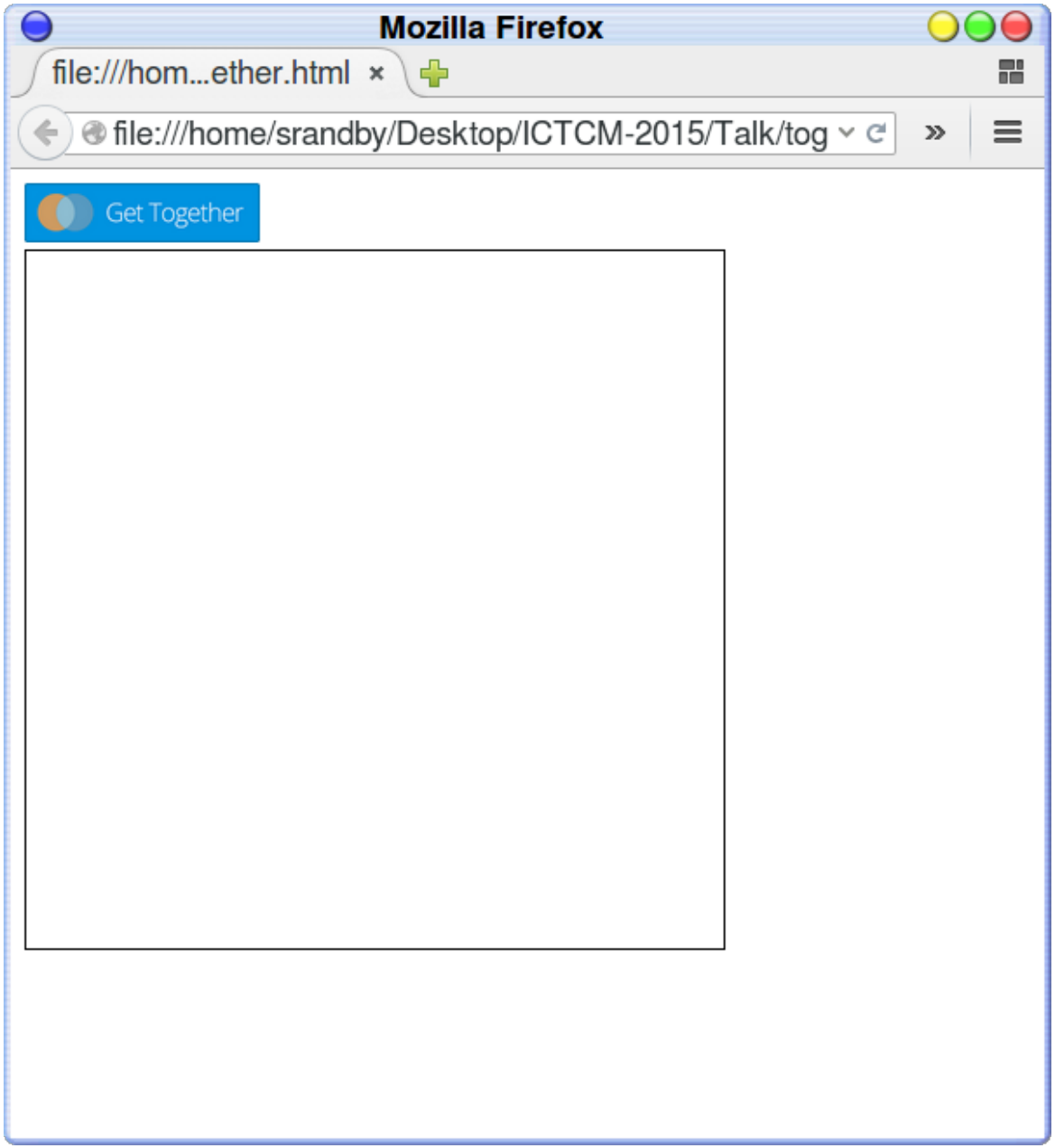
- https://togetherjs.com/
- Add text chat and audio (experimental) to **any** web page.
- Collaborate using interactive JavaScript applications.
- Free software (open source) JavaScript library by *Mozilla*.
- Simple to implement.
  - Self host or use Mozilla's servers.
- Simple to use.
- TogetherJS documentation: https://togetherjs.com/docs/

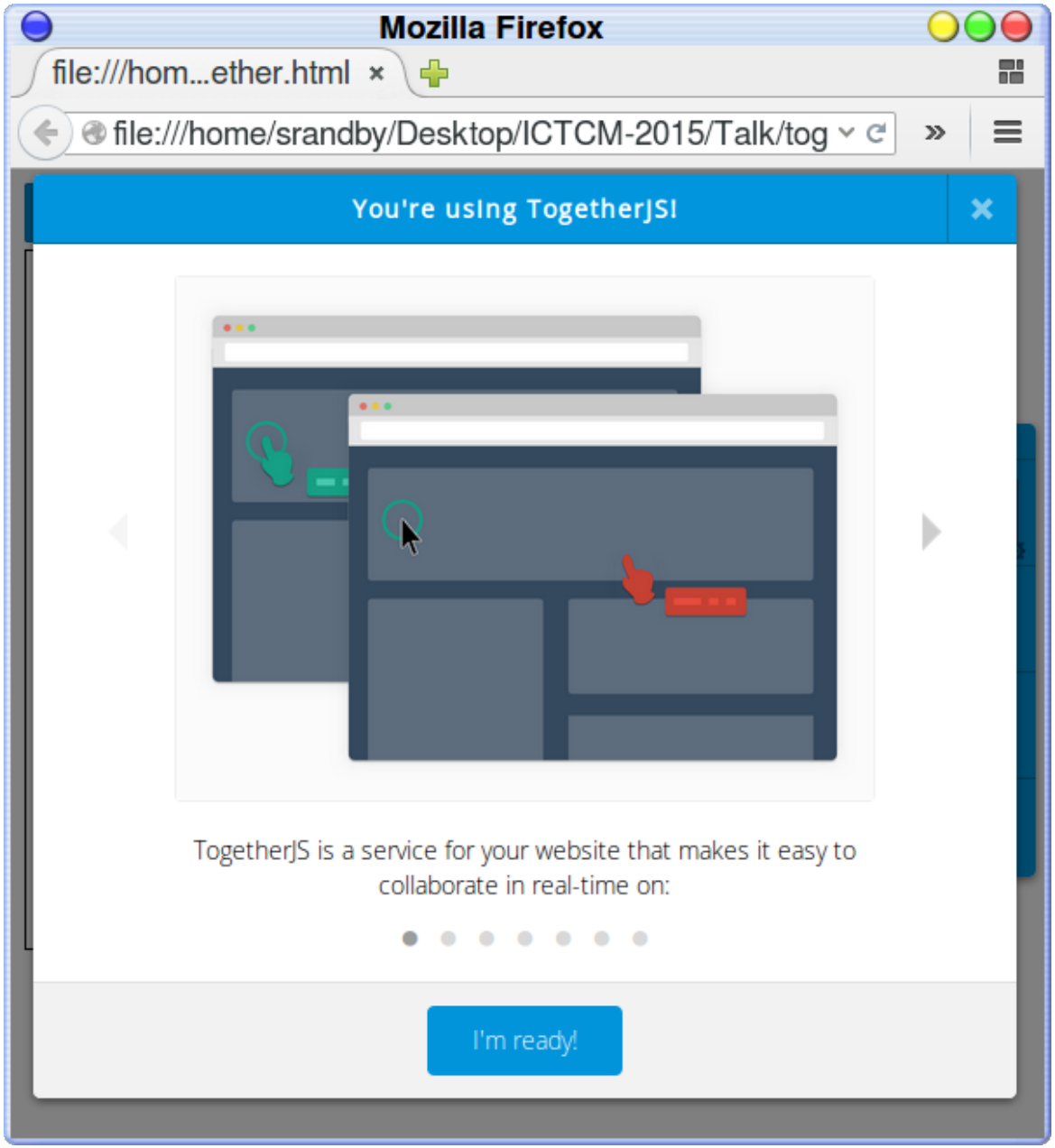
```
<!doctype html>
<html>
<head>
</head>
<body>
<script src="https://togetherjs.com/togetherjs-min.js">
</script>
<a onclick="TogetherJS(this); return false;">
<img
src="https://togetherjs.com/images/
     start-togetherjs-blue.png" style="width: 135px" />
</a>
</body>
</html>
```

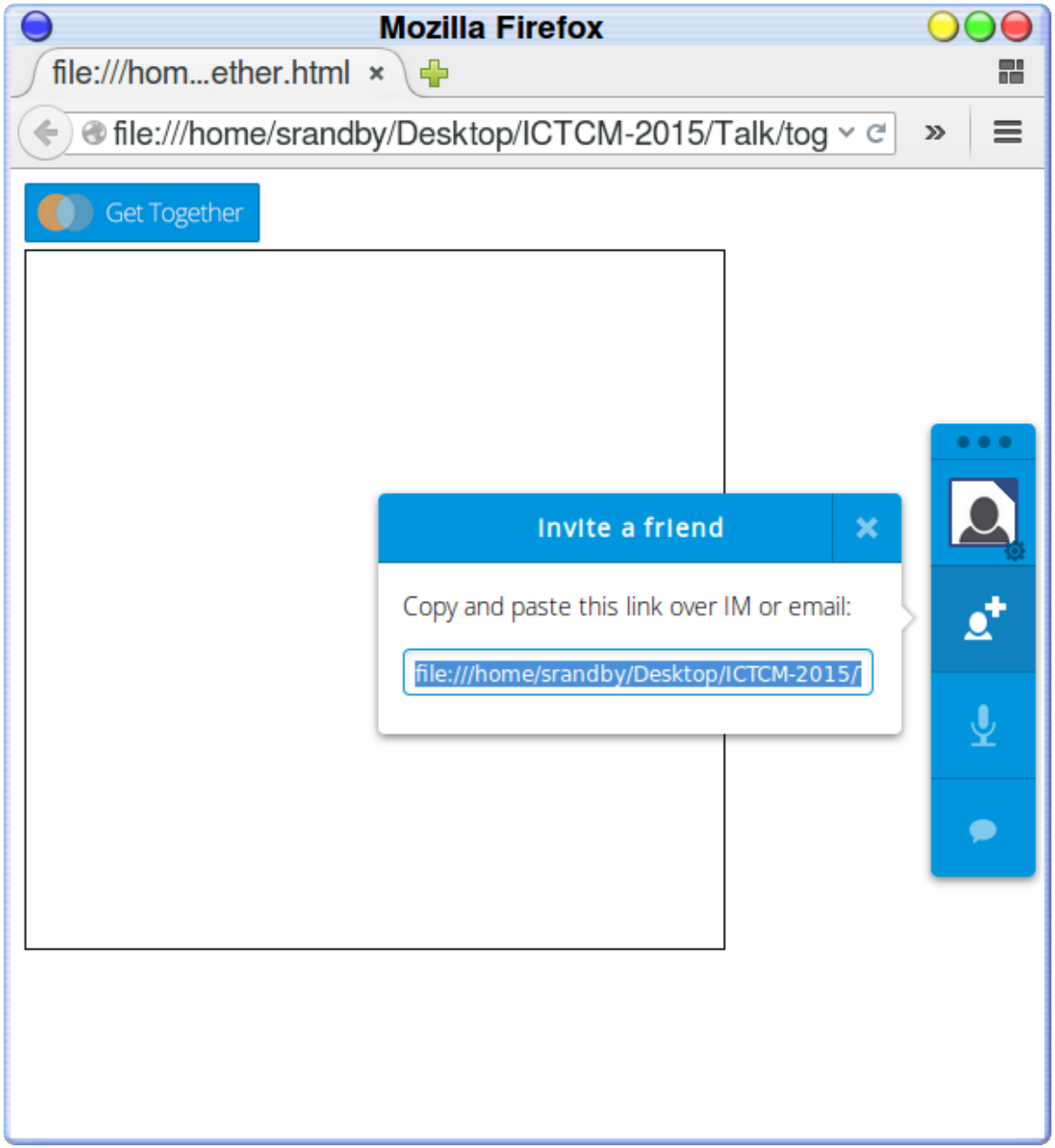
My Goals

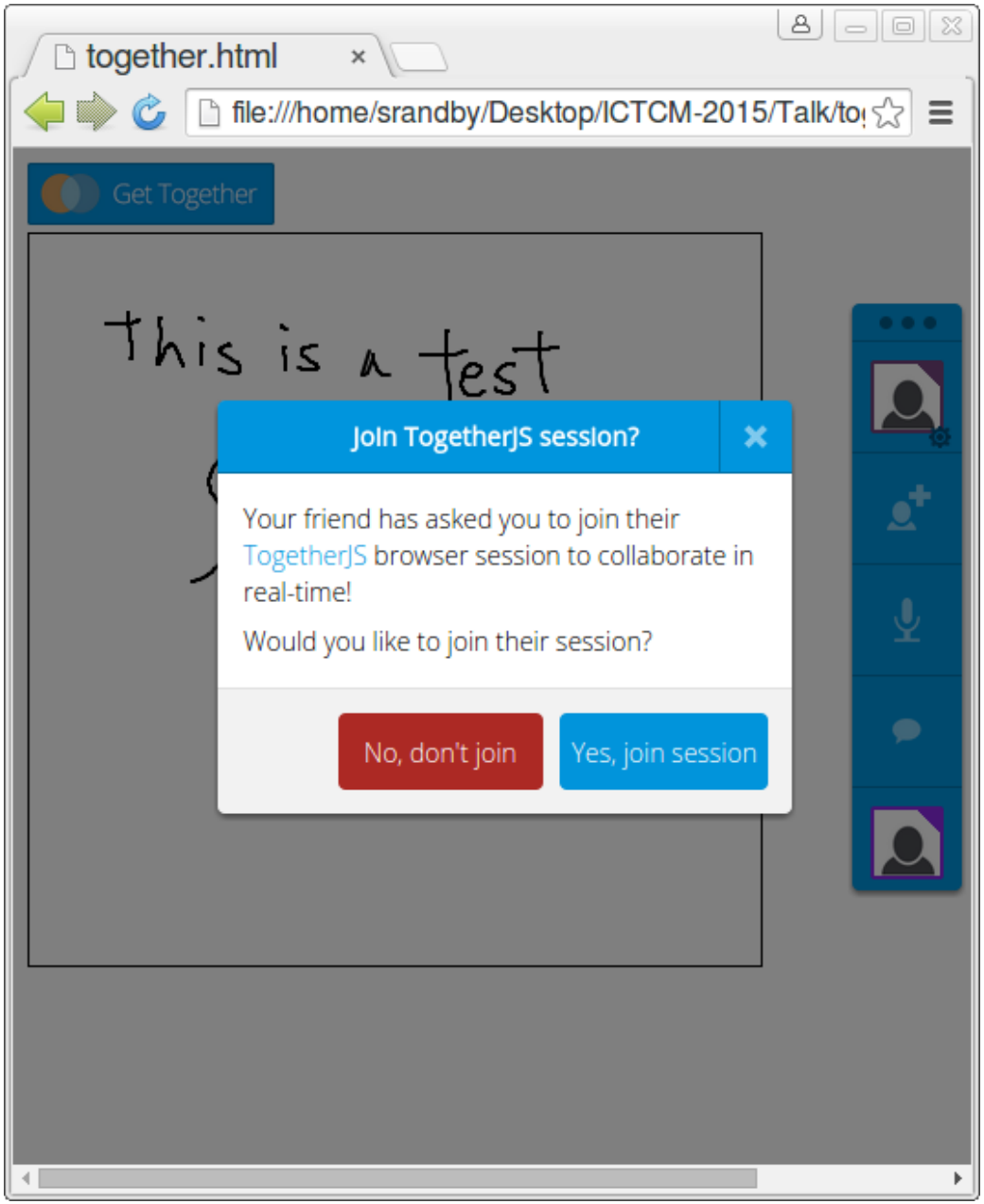
- Text chat with link support.
- Collaborative whiteboard.

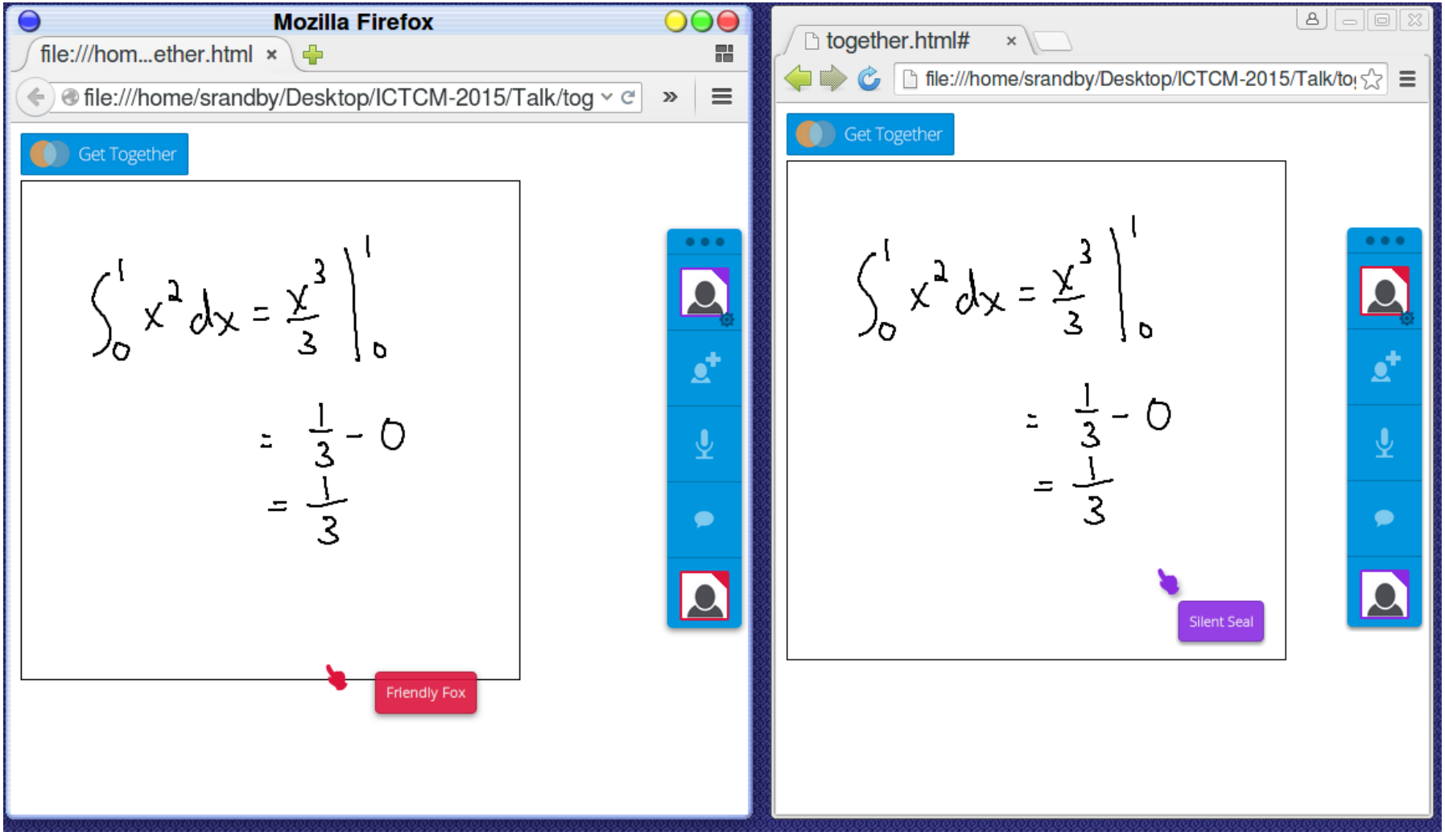
http://srandby.org/together.html

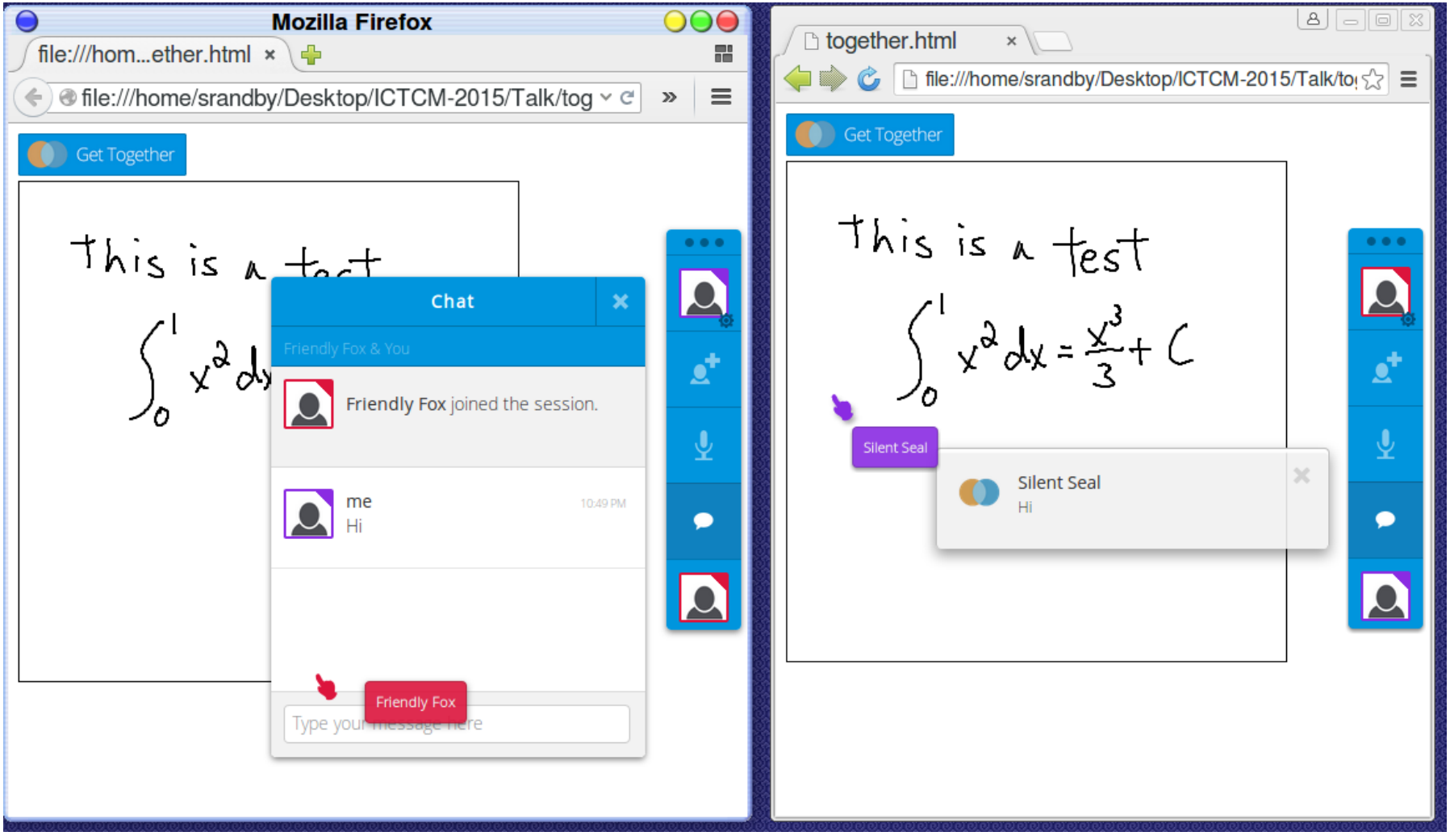

Mozilla Firefox
file:///hom...ether.html
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/tog
Get Together


Mozilla Firefox
file:///hom...ether.html
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/tog
You're using TogetherJS!
TogetherJS is a service for your website that makes it easy to collaborate in real-time on:
I'm ready!


Mozilla Firefox
file:///hom...ether.html
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/tog
Get Together
Invite a friend
Copy and paste this link over IM or email:
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/


together.html
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/to
Get Together
This is a test
Join TogetherJS session?
Your friend has asked you to join their TogetherJS browser session to collaborate in real-time!
Would you like to join their session?
No, don't join
Yes, join session


Mozilla Firefox
file:///hom...ether.html
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/tog
Get Together
$\int_0^1 x^2\,dx = \frac{x^3}{3}\Big|_0^1$
$= \frac{1}{3} - 0$
$= \frac{1}{3}$
Friendly Fox
together.html#
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/to
Get Together
$\int_0^1 x^2\,dx = \frac{x^3}{3}\Big|_0^1$
$= \frac{1}{3} - 0$
$= \frac{1}{3}$
Silent Seal


Mozilla Firefox
file:///hom...ether.html
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/tog
Get Together
This is a test
Chat
Friendly Fox & You
Friendly Fox joined the session.
me
10:49 PM
Hi
Friendly Fox
Type your message here
together.html
file:///home/srandby/Desktop/ICTCM-2015/Talk/to
Get Together
This is a test
Silent Seal
Silent Seal
Hi